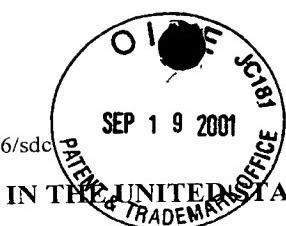


Docket No. 203870US6/sdc



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Kenji NAKAGAWA, et al.  
SERIAL NO: 09/883,997  
FILED: June 20, 2001  
FOR: MATERIAL HOLDING IMPLEMENT

GAU: 3723  
EXAMINER:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SEP 21 2001

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:  
Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599

Joseph A. Scafetta, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,803



22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000  
Fax. (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 10/98)

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STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AI on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 2-162011 discloses a manufacture of vessel by vacuum forming which comprises

a thermoplastic resin sheet having an oxygen barrier layer attached to the opening of a mold with a fixture. The sheet heated up to the predetermined temperature and, after that, a center member is projected. In this case, the portion contacting with the upper edge of the mold of the sheet is pushed up by means of air in the interior of the mold and stretched more than its portion fixed to the fixture. Next, cylindrical members are projected in order, resulting in uniformly stretching the sheet in order with the respective members of a plug so as to bring the sheet to the state close to the inner surface of the mold. When the mold is vaccumized through a pipe at this time point, the sheet is brought into close contact with the inner surface. A vacuum-formed vessel is obtained by being released from the mold. Since the vessel is stretched gradually with the respective members so as to be brought close to the inner wall of the mold for the final vacuum forming, the degree of ununiform thickness of the vessel becomes small.

Reference AJ on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 2-206539 discloses a composite shape memory molding which comprises

shape memory alloy, to which the predetermined shape has been given, stretched by external force,

the resultant shape memory alloy together with compound made of shape memory resin (polynorbornene) put in a hot press so as to be thermally processed at 150°C, and

the alloy in the molding molded as described above repossesses its memorized shape at a temperature exceeding its transformation temperature and simultaneously the resin is given the same shape as the alloy 1 has and cooled and solidified.

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STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

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Reference AK on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 4-46638 discloses a superplastic die and superplastic forming method which comprises a lower die having a structure where half ring shaped split dies are paired with each other and the periphery is held with a holding ring, and

a superplastic plate material mounted on the lower die, the upper die put and fixed by a fixture and when compressed gas is supplied from a charging or discharging passage, the superplastic plate material deforms from the surface of the lower die to the under surface space through the opening to be formed superplastically. In this way, the holding ring to the periphery of the split dies are removed and the split die are split to take out the superplastically formed part.

Reference AL on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 4-154550 discloses a container holder which comprises

retaining pieces formed by slitting a circular resilient sheet in a radial manner at an angular space of 45° are mounted between a lower outer cylinder and an upper outer cylinder and on the top face of the upper outer cylinder using hold-down rings and bolts, and

a container forced through the resilient sheets into a receiving space to be set in a holder and secured in the central part thereof by the reactive force caused by the deflection of each retaining piece.

Since the retaining pieces provided in two tiers become deformable in response to changes in the shape of the container to be received in the holder, the containers in various shapes can be retained.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

## Reference AM on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 4-253690 discloses a receptacle for carrying container or the like which comprises

an inner seat of an article carrying receptacle consists of supporting members for the container made of shape memory resin and spacers for securing the supporting members to the inner surface of a receptacle body and the supporting members are provided in the center with the holes cut somewhat smaller than the horizontal cross sectional contour of a container. The temperature of the article carrying receptacle containing the supporting members is raised to at least 60°C in its entirety to soften the supporting members. The container or a pattern resembling the container in its shape is inserted from above the receptacle into the holes of the supporting members, so that the bottom part of the container makes contact with the bottom part of the receptacle body, after which the article carrying receptacle is entirely allowed to cool to normal temperature with pawls left as deformed.

## Reference AN on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 4-279497 discloses a vessel holder which comprises

a couple of V-shaped fingers (container holding means) arranged to oppose with each other in a square cylindrical case to be movable unilaterally,

a number of pins provided to be freely projected or recessed at the case bottom,

The V-shaped fingers transferred according to the shape of vessel every specified interval, and

the pin pushed in the bottom of the case just only at the position where the vessel is placed, in order to hold the vessel by the V-shaped fingers and the protruded pins.

## Reference AO on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 10-194388 discloses a article-holding device which comprises

an article-holding member constructed of a shape memory material, and the shape memory material being able to be deformed at a temperature higher than a specified temperature into an article-holding shape that is suitable to an article model while being formed at a temperature range of use that is lower than the specified temperature into a fixed shape of article holding, and thereby a range for article-holding can be formed.

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STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AP on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. HEI 10-194389 discloses method and device for changing mold for article-holding apparatus which comprises

a mold-changing device for an article-holding apparatus composed of a heating device for heating a shape memory material of an article-holding member up to a level higher than a specified temperature, a shape-giving device for deforming the shape memory material heated up to the level higher than the specified temperature into a shape of article-holding, and a cooling device for cooling the article-holding shape of the shape memory material down for fixation to a level lower than the specified temperature.

Reference AQ on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. SHO 60-230844 discloses a composite shape memory material which is;

charging a positive memory to a shape memory alloy, and a negative memory to another shape memory alloy,

inserting a shape memory resin or an elastic insulator between the above two, for the purpose of supporting and insulating of the above two, and

providing electric points of contact on the above two, and moving them so as to make possible two or more positive or negative memory works

Reference AR on Form 1449:

Japanese Granted Patent Publication No. SHO 62-46434 discloses an adjusting device of a holding member of bottles in an automatic bottling machine which fills contents, and transports bottles by a transporting member such as a chain conveyer. The bottle has a shoulder portion on a connecting portion of a small-diameter neck portion having an opening at an upper end and a large-diameter trunk portion, and the shoulder portion has gradually bigger diameter in the trunk portion than in the neck portion.

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STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AS on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. SHO 62-94543 discloses a deep pressed molding container which is formed by a deep pressed molding of a laminating layer member laminated plastic films via a layer of an adhesive agent whose elastic power is 800g/15mm or more and whose elastic rate is from 50 to 10000kg/cm<sup>2</sup> on both sides of a surface processing steel foil whose thickness is 120 $\mu$  or less.

Reference AT on Form 1449:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-326395 discloses a mold of article housing member which comprises

a mold of an article housing member has a female mold and a male mold holding the article housing member supported on a fixing member from the inside and outside thereof to be fitted to each other to form a cavity for molding an article housing shape in the article housing member, and

the region capable of being engaged with the fixing member provided in at least one of the female and male molds.